



Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region

(50 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties)

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Gray Davis  
Governor

To: Interested Persons

From: Renee DeShazo  
Environmental Scientist, Standards & TMDL Unit  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Date: October 9, 2003

Subject: Notice of Public Hearing for a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* to update Saltwater Ammonia Objectives for Inland Surface Waters.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to update Saltwater Ammonia Objectives for Inland Surface Waters. Additional regulations or policies, consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and complementary to the proposal may be developed at the hearing as a logical outgrowth. The Regional Board will act on the proposed amendment after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. Copies of the proposed resolution, Basin Plan amendment, staff report, CEQA checklist and Notice of Filing can be obtained from the Regional Board website at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4) (select "Basin Plan" under the "Quick Menu"). Please contact Renee DeShazo at (213) 576-6783 for additional information or to obtain a hard copy of the documents.

***A Public Hearing will be held on December 4, 2003  
at 9:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California***

Written comments and exhibits must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 25, 2003. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4).

Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013

ATTN: Renee DeShazo

All exhibits including charts, graphs and other testimony presented at the public hearing must be left with the Regional Board for inclusion in the Administrative Record. Please note that the Regional Board may impose time limits on oral testimony at the public hearing.

### ***California Environmental Protection Agency***

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\*\*\*For a list of simple ways to reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see the tips at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/news/echallenge.html>\*\*\*



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## Background

The proposed amendment would update the current inland surface waters saltwater ammonia objectives outlined in the Basin Plan. The goal of this amendment is to reflect the criteria developed by U.S. EPA in the “Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia (Saltwater)-1989”. The 1989 guidance contains U.S. EPA’s most recent saltwater aquatic life criteria for ammonia.

The proposed revisions are based on the latest scientific knowledge on the identifiable effects of ammonia on public health and welfare, aquatic life, and recreation. EPA’s most recent saltwater aquatic life criteria for ammonia supersedes all previous saltwater aquatic life criteria for ammonia.

In April of 2002, the Regional Board adopted a Basin Plan Amendment updating the freshwater ammonia objectives to reflect EPA’s “1999 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia,” December 1999. The Basin Plan Amendment became effective July 15, 2003. Although the Basin Plan Amendment updated the freshwater ammonia criteria for inland surface waters, it did not update the objectives for inland surface waters not characteristic of freshwater. At the April 2002 Board meeting, the Board directed staff to investigate and determine the most appropriate source of saltwater ammonia objectives for inland surface waters. Regional Board staff compared ammonia objectives in the U.S. EPA’s 1989 saltwater ammonia criteria with ammonia objectives in the 2001 California Ocean Plan in order to determine the most appropriate saltwater ammonia objectives for inland surface waters.

Staff recommends that the ammonia objectives for the Los Angeles Region be updated to reflect the “Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia (Saltwater)-1989” EPA 440/5-88-004. Office of Water, Regulations and Standards, Criteria and Standards Division. The update provides acute (1-hour), and chronic (4-day) objectives for ammonia for inland surface waters not characteristic of freshwater.

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